

body, this amendment, I have sent to all of you a letter which outlines what the contents of the amendment are, and then have given you also a handout, which I again have passed out today on the floor, in case you didn't have that with you, which compares the current distribution which is now in the bill versus what this amendment would do in the formula. What I've done is make an effort to include all of the teachers across the state, the 529 that have been eliminated by the Conway amendment, and basically what it does is puts some money into that area, I put a six-tenths weighting of FTE weighting on that category of teachers, of the 529 folks, and an 8 percent...eight-tenths of a percent on the next category above. And I lowered that category from 16,000, I believe it was in the Conway amendment in the first year; mine becomes 14,000 in the first year; in the second year, it goes to 16,000; the third year it would be eligible for that eight-tenths of a percent weighting that goes to 17,000. What this does is redistribute, from the \$20 million, about \$1.8 million from the top two distribution categories down to the bottom two categories, and, in other words, putting more money at the lower end, into the teachers...into the area of salaries which are the lowest in the state. My understanding of the purpose of this bill as it was brought to us was that it was a bill to increase the salaries of teachers. I know the argument is that there are some districts who could pay, and I know by the stuff that's been passed out here that it happens that in my district, Adams County, there is a district, District 29, which has very high valuation, but which is...the levy on that is very, very low. That, to me, is not the issue. The issue here, as has been brought to us, is this is an enhancement of salaries for teachers. And my argument is the teachers can't help what the school boards pay. They have to take the salary that they are offered, and if that is where they are going to live. I really don't have a lot of argument, and I don't intend to do a lot of arguing. I would just tell you that the other handout that I have is a letter from the League of Women Voters which is in support of my amendment and the bill. If this amendment could be attached to the bill, I could support it, because I...and by the way, I had a phone call from my Teachers Association in Adams County, this afternoon, telling me that they will support my amendment, that they want me to support...they would like to support my amendment and support the bill. And I guess...And I visited with a few of them when I was home on the weekend. I asked them, you know I explained the situation as far as the argument that we have here. And I said, I realize on one hand this is taking money away from you